

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 AID-05 ISO-00 PM-03 MC-02 ACDA-05 IGA-01

EB-07 OMB-01 ERDA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /066 W

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R 121201Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2962

INFO /USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7-SAME//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON KUWAIT

REF: STATE 108266

1. DOD REP HAS DISCUSSED CLASSIFICATION OF KUWAIT FMS PROGRAMS WITH KUWAIT MILITARY AUTHORITIES WITHOUT REVEALING BACKGROUND OF REFTEL. LATTER HAVE AGREED ALL EXISTING CASES FOR OTHER THAN ACTUAL WEAPONS OR MUNITIONS NEED NOT BE CLASSIFIED. THIS WILL PERMIT DECLASSIFICATION OF ALL SIGNED RPT SIGNED CASES EXCEPT UAH (IHAWK) AND UAG (TOW). FOR WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS, GOK DESIRES QUANTITIES AND DELIVERY SCHEDULES REMAIN CLASSIFIED INFORMATION UNTIL SPECIFICALLY RELEASED. (NOTE: A4 PROCUREMENT HAS BEEN PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED.)

2. CONTINUED CLASSIFICATION OF QUANTITY AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION ON NEW WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS APPEARS EMINENTLY REASONABLE AND IN KEEPING WITH US PRACTICE. WITH SMALL SIZE OF GOK MILITARY, RELEASE OF THIS INFO AS A PRACTICAL MATTER MAKES PUBLIC TOTAL GOK CAPABILITY IN SPECIFIC AREAS. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE SIMILAR TO USG MAKING PUBLIC INVENTORY OF WAR RESERVE STOCKS OR MAJOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT PLANS SUCH AS THE POM OR JSOP.

3. INFORMATION ON ACTUAL/POTENTIAL FUTURE PROGRAMS IS RECEIVED IN CONFIDENCE AND IS EQUALLY SENSITIVE TO GOK AS IT WOULD:

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(A) REVEAL MAJOR PART OF GOK FORCE DEVELOPMENT PLANS; AND

(B) CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF TRUST.

4. WHILE KUWAIT IS SMALL COUNTRY AND WILL NEVER BE A MAJOR MILITARY POWER, NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS ARE AS IMPORTANT TO GOK AS OUR OWN TO US. GOK POLICY ON CLASSIFICATION IS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN (WITH LOWER DEGREES OF CLASSIFICATION) AND WOULD SEEM DIFFICULT TO ATTACK IF OUR OWN STANDS COURT TEST. IT IS EMBASSY'S OPINION THAT BREACH OF TRUST INVOLVED IN A UNILATERAL RELEASE WOULD CLEARLY DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOK.

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